

Remarks

Claims 1-14 are pending in the application. Claims 1-7 have been allowed. Claims 8, 12, and 14 have been amended. The specification including the Abstract has been amended. Reconsideration and re-examination of the Application is respectfully requested for the reasons set forth herein.

1. The specification has been amended to correct typographical and grammatical errors. Approval of the amendments to the specification is respectfully requested.

2. The Examiner has objected to the Abstract for having more than 150 words. The Abstract has been amended to correct grammatical errors and to reduce the number of words therein to 150.

3. The Examiner has objected to claims 8, 12, and 14, because of several informalities. Claims 8, 12, and 14 have been amended to reflect the Examiner's suggested changes.

4. The Examiner has rejected claims 9-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,095,835 issued to Oguchi.

Claim 9 recites that the card advance checking device comprises "a stopper member supported in a card receiving slot by a supporting shaft...and a cam member pivotally supported in the card receiving slot by a supporting shaft arranged perpendicular to the supporting shaft of the stopper member, the cam member having a claw that abuts the stopper member to prevent the stopper member from pivoting to the second position, the cam member having a cam surface

positioned such that when the card has a desired thickness, the cam member is cam-engaged by the card to release the claw from the stopper member.”

The Examiner cites the first and second support shafts 8, 9 of Oguchi as the supporting shaft of the claimed invention, the claws 6a, 7a of Oguchi as the claw of the claimed invention, and the cam groove 14 of Oguchi as the cam member of the claimed invention. As shown in Figure 1 and discussed in column 4, lines 7-19 of Oguchi, the claws 6a, 7a of Oguchi push an IC card 1 and are integrally formed with first and second rotary arms 6, 7 that are supported by the first and second support shafts 8, 9. As shown in Figures 4-5 and discussed in column 4, lines 53-59 of Oguchi, the cam groove 14 of Oguchi is formed in an outer side surface of a frame 3 and has a plurality of cam surfaces A-E. The claimed invention requires the claw to abut a stopper member and to be formed on a cam member that is pivotally supported in the card receiving slot by a supporting shaft arranged perpendicular to the supporting shaft of the stopper member. The claws 6a, 7a neither abut a stopper member that is supported by a supporting shaft nor are formed on a cam member pivotally supported in the card receiving slot by a supporting shaft arranged perpendicular to the supporting shaft of the stopper member. Oguchi therefore does not teach all of the elements of claim 9 in as complete detail as set forth in the claim. Removal of the rejection of claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

Claims 10-14 depend from independent claim 9. As previously discussed, Oguchi does not teach all of the elements of claim 9. Because Oguchi does not teach all of the elements of claim 9, Oguchi does not teach all of the elements of claims 10-14. Removal of the rejection of claims 10-14 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) is respectfully requested.

In view of the amendments and arguments presented herein, the application is considered to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and passage to issue is respectfully requested.

Please charge any additional fees and credit and overpayments associated with this application to Deposit Order Account No. 501581.

Respectfully submitted,
Katsumi Yamaguchi, Applicant

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jennifer Mae Slonaker", written over a horizontal line.

Jennifer Mae Slonaker
Registration No. 50568
Attorney for Applicant
Phone: 717.399.1535
Facsimile: 717.291.4660